

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

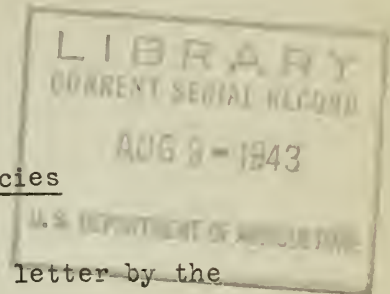
1. 94 22
A 2061
copy 2

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Food Distribution Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

August 3, 1943

DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 31
Supplement 1

Public Criticism of Other Government Agencies



In Director's Memorandum No. 31 attention was called to a letter by the President cautioning employees of the Government against publicly criticizing other Government agencies or officials.

The President has recently issued a second letter on this subject to the heads of every department and agency of the Government, which reads as follows:

"On August 21, 1942, I sent to the head of each department and agency of the federal government a letter, a copy of which is attached." [Copies of this letter of August 21 are being sent to Branch and Division Chiefs and Regional Directors. Others will find the substance of the letter in Director's Memorandum No. 31.]

"I call your attention to the statement contained in that letter that 'disagreements either as to fact or policy should not be publicly aired, but are to be submitted to me by the appropriate heads of the conflicting agencies.' Notwithstanding these positive instructions, disagreements between agencies have been publicly aired on several occasions.

"I realize the nervous strain under which government officials are working in war time but I cannot overlook any further violations of my instructions. By this letter I do not place any restriction upon your furnishing statements in response to Congressional inquiries. But if when you have a disagreement with another agency as to fact or policy, instead of submitting it to me or submitting it to the Director of War Mobilization for settlement under the terms of the Order creating that office, you feel you should submit it to the Press, I ask that when you release the statement for publication, you send to me a letter of resignation.

"If any subordinate of yours violates my instructions in this regard, I shall expect you to ask for his immediate resignation."

I wish to impress upon every employee of the Food Distribution Administration that publicly aired disputes and criticism create confusion, that conflicts must be cleared through the appropriate administrative level, and that the President's instructions apply to every employee in this Administration.

INDEX ENTRY

Criticism of Other Government Agencies

F-844

Roy F. Hendrickson
Director

